6: Sauer--124[2] G-5 (1785-94) 1802 Yakut
116, 147, 164, 756

"The Yakuti are a healthy and hardy race, bear the extremes of heat and cold to an astonishing degree, and travel in the severest frosts on horseback, frequently suffering much from hunger; they are, however, subject to rheumatic pains, boils, the itch, and sore eyes; and great numbers were carried off in 1758 and 1774 by the small-pox and measles: the shamans are their doctors."

"Yakutsk has the credit of being the coldest place upon the face of the earth. The mean temperature of the air is 18·5 Fahrenheit. A degree of cold takes place there every year between the 17th December and 18th February, exceeding 58° below zero. During Mr. Erman's stay the cold reached even 71·5 below zero. Mercury, therefore, is frozen at Yakutsk for [297] one-sixth of the year. An exceedingly warm summer follows this cold winter, and continues from about the 12th May to the 17th September. The ground is then thawed three feet deep, and though the crops rest on perpetually frozen strata, yet they produce fifteen-fold on an average, and in particular places forty-fold*

* It is well known that in the northern parts of Siberia the ground is always frost-bound, but to what depth is not so easily determined. During the stay, however, of Mr. Erman at Yakutsk it happened that a resident was digging a well, down which the man of science went, and pronounced that he found the soil frozen to a depth of 50 feet below the surface. So accustomed, however, do the natives become to the cold, that with the thermometer at unheard-of degrees below freezing point, the Yakute women, with bare arms, stand in the open-air markets, chattering and joking as pleasantly as if in genial spring. Inside their houses, in the heated part of the rooms, they get the temperature up to 65° or 75°; but one day, when the thermometer stood at 9°, Mr.

11: Lansdell--296-297 M-3 (1879) 1882 Yakut-2
116, 132, 147

Erman found the children of both sexes running about quite naked, not only in the house, but even in the open air. In fact, the great cold is not thought a grievance in Siberia, for a man clothed in furs may sleep at night in an open sledge when the mercury freezes in the thermometer; and, wrapped up in his pelisse, he can lie without inconvenience on the snow under a thin tent when the temperature of the air is 30° below zero."

24: Wrangell--37 G-3 (1820-23) 1842 Yakut
116, 147

"Accustomed from infancy to the privations incident to their severe climate, they disregard hardships of every kind. They appear absolutely insensible to cold, and their endurance of hunger is such as to be almost incredible."

24: Wrangell--288-289 G-3 (1820-23) 1842 Yakut
116, 147, 513

"A Jakut, when travelling, wears only his usual in-door clothing, and at night spreads a horsecloth on the snow, which, with a saddle for his pillow, forms the whole of his bedding; his only covering being the fur jacket which he has worn during the day, and which he pulls off and puts over his back and shoulders, while the front of his body has scarcely anything to protect it, and is turned to the blazing fire. When he has lain for some time in this way, and feels so warm that he is near perspiring, he stops up his nose and ears with little bits of fur, and covers his face so as to leave only an exceedingly small aperture for breathing, and this is all that he requires in the most intense cold to keep from freezing during sleep. Even in Siberia the Jakuti are called iron men; and I do not believe that there are any other people in the world who can endure cold and hunger as they do. I have seen them frequently in the most intense cold of [289] this country, after the fire had long been extinguished, and when the light jacket had slipped off from their shoulders, sleeping completely exposed to the heavens, with scarcely any clothing on them, and their bodies covered with a thick coat of hoar-frost."

36: Niemojowski-- 96-98 T-2 (no date) 1883 Yakut-1-2
116, 177, 577, 157, 147

" Living for centuries in this desert, and holding no communication whatever with the outside world, except when they come to sell fish and game to the travellers on the Lena, the Yakuts have preserved unimpaired their primitive character. No foreign element has influenced their habits, mode of living, or cus- [97] toms. No trace of civilization appears among them. Quiet , gentle, upright, and extremely patient, they are never the slaves of their passions, never give way to violent feelings of revenge or hate. Cunningness, falseness, and hypocrisy are unknown amongst them. Their word can always be relied upon; their promise is always fulfilled; an assurance once given is faithfully kept. The uprightness of these people is so great that in the annals of their quiet life there has never been an instance of cheating or stratagem, still less of crime. These noble qualities are the gift of Nature; but their incomparable patience is chiefly the result of climate and atmospheric influence.

This opinion is arrived at from general ethnographical considerations. All nations inhabiting the high northern latitudes are distinguished by this same virtue. The characters of Laplanders, Icelanders, and the inhabitants of the rocky confines of Norway bear the marks of this passive, lamb-like patience. The power which tends to level all inward demonstrations is the polar temperature, which congeals every violent motion of the blood, every strong feeling. Under this freezing influence, the rest-[98] lessness inborn in man is calmed, the passions sober down, and the man whose fate made him a

child of these northern latitudes becomes an automaton, impervious alike to cold and to an affront, and bearing with the same equanimity a box on the ear or a snowstorm. Patience which we consider a virtue, because it has its roots in moral power, overcoming tha agitation of the blood, becomes in these children of the North a defect in character. It is impossible not to pity these unfortunates, bearing with angelic patience the abuse and ill-treatment---generally brutal and invariably undeserved--- vented upon them by the small merchants or petty clerks travelling on the Lena. Yet they do not deserve contempt; they do not act thus from any want of self-respect, but rather from an apathy bordering on moral incapacity. They receive alike good or bad with equal faith in the justice of whatever befalls them."